

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 IO-14 A-01 OPR-02 SY-10 NIC-01

SCCT-02 NEA-10 AID-20 MC-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 OC-06 CCO-00

DRC-01 /155 W

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O 271413Z FEB 74 ZFF4

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2503

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECDEF IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

DIRNSA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0109

E. O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS : PINS, ET

SUBJ : MILITARY MUTINY

REF : ASMARA 108

1. CONGEN IS SEEKING INFORMATION ABOUT ADDIS DEGATION.
I HAVE VERY RELIABLE INFORMATION THAT DISSIDENTS DECIDED
ABOUT 1400 TODAY TO KEEP ALL ADDIS VISITORS HERE EXCEPT
FOR LT.GEN. ASSEFA DIMESSIE AND TO SEND LATTER BACK
BY ADDIS THIS AFTERNOON WITH MESSAGE FOR EMPEROR. HOWEVER,
DURING BRIEF TOUR OF TOWN AT 1530 I SAW ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES
AIRCRAFT IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE LANDING APPROACH TO AIRFIELD.
WING TO BUILDINGS BLOCKING VIEW, I LOST TRACK OF AIRCRAFT AND
WAS UNABLE SEE WHETHER IT REALLY WAS LANDING OR TAKING OFF.
IF IT WAS LANDING, IT COULD HAVE BEEN CALLED BACK TO PICK UP
BALANCE OF ADDIS GROUP IF DISSIDENTS CHANGED MIND ABOUT
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HOLDING THESE PERSONS.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE EFFORTS BY EMBASSY TO LEARN WHO LEFT ADDIS FOR ASMARA THIS MORNING AND WHO RETURNED TO ADDIS FROM ASMARA THIS AFTERNOON. I AM ATTEMPTING OBTAIN SIMILAR INFO HERE.

3. IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT RESUMED TOMORROW, AND IF EMPEROR AND CABINET MAINTAIN THEIR INTRANSIGENCE, WHAT STARTED AS MILITARY STRIKE AND DEVELOPED INTO MUTINY MIGHT DEVELOP NEXT INTO GENUINE ATTEMPTED COUP. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, LEADERS OF DISSPRENTS APPEAR TO BE EXTREMELY CAPABLE. I GAINED IMPRESSION IN RECENT TOUR OF TOWN THAT THEY ARE ALSO STRONG IN INTENT. I WAS IMPRESSED BY APPEARANCE OF FEW MILITARY PERSONNEL I SAW COMING OUT OF FRONT GATE OF GOVGEN'S RESIDENCE. THEY STRUCK ME IN BRIEF OBSERVATION AS COMMANDING IN APPEARANCE AND AS KNOWING EXACTLY WHAT THEY WERE DOING. IF EMPEROR DOES NOT ACCEED TO THEIR DEMANDS, I BELIEVE THEY WILLMAKE EFFORTS DURING NEXT 24 TO 48 HOURS TO PERSUADE MUNITY BY FORCES AT ADDIS AND ELSEWHERE. IF THEY ATTEMPT THIS AND SUCCEED, THERE COULD BE A WHOLE NEW BALLGAME IN ETHIOPIA.

4. AT MEETING LEADERS HELD WITH ADDIS VISITORS TODAY, THERE WAS NO REFERENCE TO ANY NAMES OF LOCAL GROUP, AND INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFIED AND REFERRED TO EACH OTHER BY NUMBER. RABIDA

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Message Attributes

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